

**POL S 5470/MID E 5647**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST**  
**SUMMER 2007/SECOND SESSION**

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**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Theory is a lens that we use to understand reality. As it is impossible to examine everything, theory hones in on a few key variables needed to understand multifaceted political phenomena. Theory structures the type of questions we ask and simplifies complex realities. We use international relations theory to describe, explain, and predict probable outcomes.

Two of the primary theories used as a lens to explain and describe the international relations of the Middle East include identity politics and balance of power politics or realism. Identity politics aims to explain foreign policy and transnational relations through regional, state, or national identity. Balance of power politics denies the relevance of identity to international relations and, instead, posits that a state's position in the international system is the primary determinant of identity. This class will also rely on a variant of realism developed by Mohammed Ayoob. Ayoob argues that the task of state-building is the primary determinant of policy and international relations for the developing world.

Political science relies on theory to develop an understanding of reality advanced upon the premises of relevant facts. Although it is fashionable these days to not allow facts to get in the way of fondly held opinions, this class requires that we acknowledge our biases, stereotypes, and opinions in order to build an analysis based upon facts.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This class will acquaint you with two of the major theories used to analyze the international relations of the Middle East. The use of these theories will promote an understanding of methodical and systematic analyses of Middle East Politics. We will take a topical approach that will explore the historical relations of the Middle East and the West, globalization and the politics of development, and explore issues of conflict and crises in the international relations of the Middle East—the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the American occupation of Iraq, Regional security, and the Global War on Terrorism. You should keep theory in mind as we explore these issues as a major goal of this class is to give you the analytical tools to approach the politics of the Middle East in a more methodical, systematic, and critical manner.

**COURSE TEXTS**

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

Bulliet, Richard. *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004).

Henry, Clement M. and Robert Springborg. *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East*. 4ed. (United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

All other readings will be on electronic reserve at the Marriott Library.

### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Take-home Midterm | 50 pts.                  |
| Presentation      | 50 pts                   |
| Final Paper       | 100 pts.                 |
| Video Reviews     | 5 pts ea. (15 pts total) |
| Participation     | 30 pts                   |
| Total;            | 245 pts.                 |

### **PRESENTATION**

You are required to make a group presentation to the class concerning an issue area in Middle East International Relations. I will bring in a sign-up sheet with topics on Wednesday, June 29. You are responsible for finding the other members of the group in order to plan a presentation. Presentations will begin on July 6 and be given throughout the six week period. After the presentation you are required to give me a grade for each person in your group with a short explanation as to why you gave a particular grade. Your grade will be an average of the grades given you by your group and my overall grade of the presentation. If your group requires the use of instructional media, you need to give me at least 24 hours notice (as a business day) or make your own arrangements with IMS at <http://www.ims.utah.edu/>

Your presentations should cover the issue area you choose as objectively and analytically as possible. Who are the primary actors involved in your issue area? Is this issue often misunderstood in the U.S. ? If so, how and why? Why is this particular issue important? What is the relevance of the matter to international and regional relations? What is the probable outcome?

### **VIDEO REVIEWS**

A short one-page review (double-spaced) of videos shown in class is due at the beginning of the next class.

### **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM**

You will be given a take-home midterm that requires you to write typed, double-spaced essays in response to questions.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Attendance is mandatory as is participation in class discussion and the presentations of other groups. You are expected to pay attention and ask relevant questions of presenters.

In a 6-week course it is never a good idea to miss class. One class in a 6-week session is the equivalent of an entire week during the spring or fall semesters. Further this is a 5000-level course and the reading load reflects the high expectations placed on advanced students. You are required to get the reading completed before coming to class. Failure to attend and/or to read will impact your grade.

### FINAL PAPER

Using one of the theoretical models discussed in class (balance of threat, subaltern realism or identity politics) write a 9-10 page paper that analyzes an issue in the International Relations of the Middle East. Issue areas include:

- Transnational media
- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- American invasion/occupation of Iraq
- Turkey-EU relations
- Oil
- Terrorism
- Economic Globalization and the Middle East (it would be acceptable to limit the relations of one Middle Eastern country or region to the global economy. E.g. Persian Gulf, Egypt, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership)
- Hydropolitics
- U.S.-Middle East Relations (Again it's acceptable to limit to a country or region)
- Middle East Relations with various Great Powers (including the Quartet but also China and Japan)
- State foreign policy (pick one state, e.g. Iranian foreign policy)
- Foreign Aid
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- The Arms Trade

If you wish to undertake an analysis of an issue that does not appear in the syllabus, please talk to me. It is likely that I will allow it. If you do not speak to me or follow the instructions for the paper, you will be dropped one full grade. At least two of your sources must be scholarly. Use a citation system and use it consistently (I don't care which one—use whatever style you are most comfortable with). Be aware that the bibliography and a cover page do not count towards the 9-10 page requirement.

### **Persons with Disabilities:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. In order to establish the existence of a disability and/or request reasonable accommodation for this class, you should contact the Center for Disabled Student Services (in Olpin Union Building at 581-5020, voice or TDD). Accommodations can then be made with reasonable prior notice to the instructor.

### **Plagiarism Policy:**

Cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to relevant university authorities and may result in severe consequences. If you are concerned about unintended plagiarism and would like to avoid it, please consult to various sources that describe how to cite references. There are also good

online resources that describe ways to avoid internet plagiarism. If you have any further questions, please see me for clarification

Class Schedule:

June 21: Introduction

### **THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?**

June 26: Read ch. 1 & 2 in Bulliet

Rec. reading: Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations"  
Bernard Lewis: "The Roots of Muslim Rage"

June 28: Read ch. 3 & 4 in Bulliet

VIDEO: "EDWARD SAID ON THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS"

### **THEORY: Realism and Constructivism**

July 3: Read: Stephen Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power"

Michael Barnett, "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East"

Mohammed Ayoob, "Subaltern Realism: International  
Relations Theory Meets the Third World"

### **GLOBALIZATION**

July 5: Read: ch. 1, 2, & 3 in Henry and Springborg

**PRESENTATIONS**

July 10: Read: ch. 4 and 5 in Henry and Springborg

**VIDEO: COMMANDING HEIGHTS PART III**

July 12: **VIDEO REVIEW DUE**

Read: ch 6, 7, & 8 in Henry and Springborg

**TAKE-HOME MIDTERM PASSED OUT**

**PRESENTATIONS**

### **CURRENT ISSUES AND CONFLICTS**

Terrorism

July 17: Read: David Ryan, "Framing September 11: Rhetorical Device and  
Photographic Opinion"

Osama bin Laden: "Terror for Terror"

Bruce Hoffman: "The Changing Face of Al-Qaeda and the Global War  
On Terrorism"

**PRESENTATIONS**

Israel-Palestine

July 19 **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE**

**VIDEO: PEACE, PROPAGANDA & THE PROMISED LAND**

Read: Beverly Milton-Edwards and Alistair Crooke, "Elusive Ingredient: Hamas and the Peace Process."

Michael Barnett, "The Israeli Identity and the Peace Process"

Ahmed Sa'di, "Catastrophe, Memory, Identity: Al-Nakbah as a Component of Palestinian Identity"

July 24: **PIONEER DAY; NO CLASS**

Occupied Iraq

July 26: **VIDEO REVIEW DUE**

Sheila Carapicio and Chris Toensing, "The Strategic Logic of the Iraq Blunder"

Reider Visser, "Basra, The Reluctant Seat of "Shiastan""

Marc Lynch, "Our Enemy's Enemy"

Thomas R. Mattair, "Exiting Iraq, Competing Strategies"

**PRESENTATIONS**

Security

July 31: Read: Michael Ryan Kraig, "Forging a New Security Order for the Persian Gulf"

Symposium, "Are We Trapped in the War on Terror?"

Hasan Kosebalaban, "The Impact of Globalization on Islamic Political Identity"

Hassan Abbas, "Islam versus the West" and the Thought of Abolkarim Soroush"

**FINAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 BY 4:00 P.M. IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT. (OSH 252) LATE PAPERS NOT ACCEPTED!**

**RESOURCES** (this list is only to help you get started. You are not limited to it)

See WEBCT